

Weekly Optic and Stock Grower.

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THE WEEKLY OPTIC —AND— STOCK GROWER —BY THE— LAS VEGAS PUBLISHING CO.

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THE "Easter Lily," the fair flower so sought after at this time of year, as typical above all others, of the Lord's resurrection, is this year almost impossible to obtain. It is procured well nigh exclusively from the Bermudas; but owing to the destruction of the crop there, for several years in succession, by a small white parasite that burrows into the bulb and destroys its vitality, the supply of both bulbs and cut flowers has been almost entirely cut off. These American horticulturalists who have succeeded in growing this flower on a large scale, are reaping a rich harvest.

THE *National Advertiser*, published at San Francisco, contends for national reclamation of the arid lands. It says:

The opportunity to get the land, and eventually the employment to enable him to pay for it, should be created at once by the Federal government by the construction of the irrigation works necessary to reclaim and make fertile and habitable the 1,000,000 acres of arid lands now a part of the public domain. The necessary knowledge to create such a rural home, to plant and till and harvest, and to produce from the soil the support for a family, should be made available to every laboring man or youth who desired it, in State and National farm schools, where all who wished would come and learn the way out from the condition of industrial slavery which threatens our laboring classes, and will surely overtake them unless they use the power which they now have to turn the course of the ship of state away from the rocks in which it is fast drifting.

The other day there passed through this city, a solid train of twenty cars, loaded with wagon wood, from Beck & Corbett Co., St. Louis, for Los Angeles. The train left St. Louis at 4 p. m., Wednesday and reached Las Vegas at 2 p. m. Saturday, or two hours less than three days. They were expected to reach their destination on the following Tuesday. This speaks well for the hustling ability of the shippers and of the power of the Santa Fe to get things there.

The finance committee on the anniversary of the I. O. O. F. have had such an excellent success with the sale of their tickets for their ball to be given at the Opera house, on the 26th inst., that they have given an order for another lot of tickets to be printed.

In the Wetmore neighborhood, the stockmen have formed an association and are offering \$10 each for wolf scalps. Fifteen have been killed, under the new arrangement.

A cat each of fine bulls, Pole Angus and Herefords, were fed at the stock yards today. They were from Kansas, consigned to Mexico points.

Getting like spring, today. The clerk of the weather should keep up his ticks in this direction.

Telegraphic News.

WASHINGTON, April 8.—Representative Lorimer, of Illinois, is authority for the statement that General Lee will make some startling disclosures before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations regarding a conspiracy to blow up the "Maine." "I understand Lee is to supply the missing link in the testimony," said Lorimer, "my information is that Captain Sigbee is in possession of the facts but does not feel at liberty to give them until the person who gave them to him releases him from secrecy imposed. That person, I understand, is Lee."

WASHINGTON, April 4.—It is said that the information General Lee is expected to testify to, relates to the extinguishment of electric lights in Havana, at the instant of the blowing up of the "Maine." Electrical experts have said that this would be conclusive evidence that the mine under the "Maine" must have been fired from the shore by an electrical connection.

WASHINGTON, April 8.—Members of the Ways and Means committee are busily engaged with treasury officials in the work preliminary to drafting a war revenue measure, to be introduced in Congress immediately upon the opening of hostilities with Spain. An increase of the internal revenue tax on beer from \$1 to \$2 a barrel and a large increase on manufactured tobacco, including cigars and cigarettes, has been practically agreed upon. Bank checks, bills of exchange, drafts, deeds, mortgages and other paper of this class, patent medicines and nostrums, in all probability will also be added to the list. A rough estimate is that that the increase on these articles alone will approximate, if not exceed, \$100,000,000 a year. A bill providing for a temporary loan of \$100,000,000, and a permanent loan of \$500,000,000, at 3 per cent, payable in coin, has been prepared by the Ways and Means committee, and will be immediately introduced, in case of war.

NEW YORK, April 8.—J. Pierpont Morgan had important New York bankers in conference at his office, touching national and financial affairs. The prospective bond issue was discussed. After the meeting a member of Morgan's firm hurried to Washington. That a government loan must soon be negotiated is fully realized and the suggestion that it be made a popular loan has met with general approval. J. J. Mitchell, of the Illinois Trust and Savings bank, Chicago, is quoted as saying: "If the loan was \$200,000,000 and issued in bonds ranging from \$50 to \$500, they would be rapidly taken up at par. I don't think a popular loan netting under 3 per cent would go."

WASHINGTON, April 8.—The fact that the American case is now fully made up and there is no disposition on the part of the administration to change it, was emphasized by absolute quietude at the White House last evening. The Vice President and Mrs. Hobart passed an hour with the President and Mrs. McKinley. The President passed only a short time in his office after dinner, and had no callers on official business. He retired at an unusually early hour.

NEW YORK, April 8.—Joseph Paul Libbens, electrician who supplied the submarine mines to the Spanish government, cables from London to the *World*: "The only submarine mines supplied the Spanish government since 1886-87, were manufactured under my own patents. I then supplied them with fifty-six ground mines, twenty-five bouyant mines, each with a charge of 500 pounds of gun cotton, and fifteen electro-contact mines, exploded either on contact or by service from shore, each containing a charge of 100 pounds of gun cotton."

The mines sent to Havana would still retain their full effectiveness. They will last under water an indefinite period. In direct contradiction of the assertions of the Secretary of the Spanish Legation, at Washington, and of General Weyler, that there are no submarine mines in the Havana harbor, I absolutely affirm that I shipped the above mines for Havana and Ferrol, in a Spanish ship, the property of the Spanish government, and officered by Spanish naval officers. My mines are in electrical connection with the shore, and it is quite impossible they could be exploded except by design. I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that the "Maine" was deliberately destroyed with one of the five-hundred pound ground mines, invented and supplied by me.

I am satisfied the explosion was caused by a ground mine—not by a bouyant mine, for Havana harbor is too shallow to admit of the use of the latter. I am prepared to satisfy by demonstration any jury of reasonable men that this is the true explanation of the destruction of the "Maine."

WASHINGTON, April 8.—The steering committee of the Republican House conference, appointed last Wednesday, to canvas the situation and ascertain how many Republicans will, if the President's message does not go to Congress Monday, join with the Democrats to secure action upon a resolution declaring for independence of Cuba and armed intervention, will meet at 2 o'clock. Lorimer, of Illinois, says that over 100 House Republicans have already agreed to act with them. "I am satisfied," said he, "that when we show Speaker Reed we have a majority of Republicans, he will bow to the will of the majority."

WASHINGTON, April 8.—The Cabinet meeting was mainly devoted to an informal discussion of the situation. The President's demeanor was grave. The proceedings indicated no expectation that the war could be averted. No fresh developments were brought to the attention of the Cabinet. The joint note of the powers was considered, but it will have practically no effect on the actual condition. Consul General Lee, it was reiterated would surely leave Havana Saturday, according to enbied instructions. Just when Woodford is expected to vacate his post was not ascertainable.

NEW YORK, April 8.—A dispatch to the *World* from Cadiz, Spain, says: "The report that the squadron of evolution and second flotilla are about to sail for Cuba or Porto Rico, is absolutely false. Positive orders have been sent to the Cape Verde islands for torpedo squadron to stay there. Neither squadron gathering here is anything like ready for sea."

KINGSTON, Jamaica, April 8.—The agents of the steamer "Brookline" had advices from Santiago de Cuba that the steamer sailed at 6 o'clock last evening with the United States consul Pulaski F. Hyatt, and others, and is due at Fort Antonio today.

The Boston Fruit company's steamer "Beverly," arrived today and is preparing to sail with the United States consul, Owen McTiarr, and other Americans, for Boston, touching at Key West.

Both steamers were chartered with great haste by United States Consul Louis A. Dent, of Kingston, who went by special train to Port Antonio. The local bank opened out of hours to supply gold.

The British consuls at Santiago de Cuba and Cienfuegos will represent American interests during the absence of the respective United States consuls.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, April 8.—The steamer "Brooklyn" arrived at Porto Antonio, this morning, from Santiago de Cuba, with United States Consul Pulaski F. Hyatt, of staff, and twenty-five Americans. All was quiet at Santiago. American interests at Santiago have been left in care of the British consul.

WASHINGTON, April 8.—It was learned today that the United States consul at Porto Rico is about to leave his post.

WASHINGTON, April 8.—Assistant Secretary Day announced this afternoon that all citizens of the United States now in Cuba, who desired to leave, including General Lee, would positively be out of the island by Saturday.

NEW YORK, April 8.—At the headquarters of the Central Cuban Relief Committee of this city, it was said today that Miss Clara Barton was expected to leave Cuba with her nine assistants in company with Consul General Lee tomorrow.

NEW YORK, April 8.—A special to the *Commercial Advertiser* from Havana, today, says: "The expected exodus of Americans and others has not occurred yet, except on a small scale. General Lee and the newspaper men expect to go to Key West on the "Fern." They may leave Saturday, but that program is subject to change."

TAMPA, Fla., April 8.—The program for the departure of General Lee from Havana was announced last night, and is as follows:

The "Olivette" will enter Havana harbor on Saturday morning, and the general will at once notify all Americans that this will be your last chance to leave the island under the American flag. After all are on board the steamer, including the United States consuls of Cuba, General Lee will pull down the American flag on the consulate, will turn over the archives to the British consul, Golho, and will go aboard the "Olivette," which will at once sail for Key West.

It is possible that one of the gunboats or cruisers at Key West will accompany the "Olivette" to Havana, to protect the Americans as the last of them leave the city. The "Olivette" will reach Key West Saturday night or Sunday night, if the United States consuls can reach Havana before Sunday.

HAVANA, April 8.—Everything is quiet here. All code telegrams from or to Cuba now have to be translated at the censor's office, with code books in sight.